

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, March 3, 2005

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, March 3, 2005, at 3:00 p.m., at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Arthur Blackwell, II
Erminia Ramirez
Jim Holley
Megan Norris **(ABS)**
Willie Hampton **(ABS)**

Department Personnel Present

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings
AC Walter Martin
Cmdr. Ralph Godbee
Lt. Edmund Tillman
Lt. John Serda
Sgt. Debbie Jackson
PO Leslie Washington
PO Michael Woody

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director
E. Lynise Bryant-Weekes, Personnel Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator

OTHERS PRESENT

Lt. Dennis Richardson, Fire Department
Wymon Mitchell
Sandra Hines
Ms. G. A. Walters
Ron Scott
Detroit News

RECORDERS

Jerome Adams
Kellie Williams

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Blackwell called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:19 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

• **Thursday, February 24, 2005**

MOTION: **Comm. Holley** made the motion to approve the above Minutes.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

MOTION: **Comm. Ramirez** made the motion to adopt the Resolution.

SECOND: **Comm. Holley** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXEC. DIR. GOSS**

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
2005 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	33	183
2004 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	43	215

- The Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) closed a total of **0** cases this week.

- The Office of the Chief Investigator submitted 0 cases to the Chief's Office. The Chief's Office has reviewed and returned 46 cases to OCI.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez asked why did OCI not have any closed cases?

Exec. Dir. Goss stated the secretary's have to go to a process before they send it to the Chief's Office.

5. REPORT/PRESENTATION – CHIEF OF POLICE

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS



BUILDING A SAFER DETROIT THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

During the period of February 23rd – March 1st, the *Narcotics Enforcement and Conspiracy Units* conducted 34 search warrants and 19 street enforcement actions within the boundaries of the city of Detroit, resulting in the following arrests and confiscations:

- ◆ 31 Felony arrests
 - ◆ 79 Misdemeanor arrests
 - ◆ 4 Juveniles detained
 - ◆ 180.2 Grams of cocaine, 114.5 grams of heroin, 444.8 grams of marijuana and 57 pills - street value **\$280,529.00**
 - ◆ **\$2,743,112.00 U.S.** currency
- Confiscated:
- ◆ 15 Handguns

The Gang Enforcement Section

During the week of February 23rd – March 1st, officers of the Gang Enforcement Section conducted “Operation Pressure Point” within the boundaries of the Sixth Precinct. As a result of their efforts, the following arrests and citations were issued:

- ◆ 2 Felony arrests
- ◆ 1 Misdemeanor arrest
- ◆ 57 Juveniles detained
- ◆ 74 Civil Infractions issued for various traffic violations

The Violent Crimes Task Force

On February 21st, officers of the Violent Crimes Task Force assisted the Michigan State Police, Downriver Area Narcotics Organization (DRANO), in a controlled delivery operation within the boundaries of the Seventh Precinct. As a result of their endeavors, the following arrests and confiscations were made:

- ◆ 3 Felony arrests
 - ◆ 226,796.2 Grams of marijuana – street value \$907,184.00
- Confiscated:
- ◆ 1 Handgun
 - ◆ 2 Vehicles

Police/Community Intervention



TAKING THE GUNS OFF THE STREET !



Total Guns Confiscated
Year-To-Date
568

TACTICAL MOBILE UNIT

On February 25th, officers of the Tactical Mobile Unit observed a vehicle disregard a traffic signal. The officers initiated a traffic stop. Subsequent to an investigation, two (2) men were arrested for “Carrying a Concealed Weapon – Motor Vehicle.” Confiscated was one (1) handgun.

SECOND PRECINCT

On February 22nd, officers of the 2nd Precinct responded to Drew Middle School, located at 9600 Wyoming, to assist Detroit Public School Police on a "Malicious Destruction of Property in Progress." As a result of an investigation, two (2) juveniles were detained for "Breaking and Entering" of the School."

SEVENTH PRECINCT

On February 25th, officers from the 7th Precinct, received information on a man wanted in connection with a shooting. As a result of the community involvement and the quick response of the officers, the man was arrested without incident.

EIGHTH PRECINCT

On February 25th, officers of the 8th Precinct while on patrol in the 18000 block of West McNichols, observed three (3) men attempting to break into a business. As a result of an investigation, and after a brief foot chase, all three (3) men were arrested for "Breaking and Entering a Business." Further investigation revealed that one (1) of the men was wanted on a felony warrant for "Breaking and Entering a Building, Habitual 4th Offense." Confiscated were miscellaneous tools and items.

TENTH PRECINCT

On February 26, officers of the 10th Precinct while on patrol in the area Milford and Epworth, observed a vehicle disregard a stop sign. The officers initiated a traffic stop. As a result of an investigation, a man was arrested for "Carrying a Concealed Weapon – Motor Vehicle," "Possession With Intent to Deliver," "Felon in Possession of a Firearm," "Felony Firearm" and "Habitual 3rd Offense." Confiscated was one (1) handgun and 125.0 grams of marijuana – street value \$500.00

ELEVENTH PRECINCT

On February 24th, officers of the 11th Precinct responded to the area of Hasse and East McNichols, on a police run to "Investigate two (2) men with guns." Subsequent to an investigation, the two (2) men were arrested for "Carrying Concealed Weapon - Motor Vehicle." Confiscated was one (1) handgun.

Chief of Police Ella M. Bully-Cummings

6. PRESENTATION – TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT

Lt. Edmund Tillman of the Mobile Support Section/Traffic Enforcement Unit gave the following PowerPoint Presentation:

(See Attachment)

Questions & Answers

Chairperson Blackwell asked if you look at the fact that you have a higher incident of those fatal accidents in selected areas of the precincts that people have by driving areas with no particular areas or is there any design flaw in consideration in terms of road lights, stop signs, or etc., have they been taken into consideration?

Lt. Tillman stated the State of Michigan did a survey and they found out that when they put in a left turn signal light at most of the intersections that they could reduce frequent accidents. But, as far as, the fatal accidents occurred for numerous reasons and basically it is for speeding. There is no designated pattern for those types of accidents, when you have a fatal accidents.

Chairperson Blackwell asked are you saying that by adding to many of the intersections with a left turn signal, we can reduce the number of fatal accidents?

Lt. Tillman stated that is correct. Most people, as a bad habit, try to accelerate when that light turns yellow and make that intersection. With that newly instructed or set-up left turn signal, if you live in the arrow of Seven Mile and Greenfield, you know that they have a left turn green arrow now, which has greatly reduced the number of crashes and fatalities.

Chairperson Blackwell stated I was just wondering why we wouldn't try to suggest that that is a, when you see a preponderance of evidence demonstrated through that, in fact makes it safer why wouldn't we try to get left turn signals any way that we could?

Lt. Tillman stated I think they are in the process, but I think it is just a slow process. They have put most of those green light signals up within the last two years.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez asked how long ago did the State do this same survey?

Lt. Tillman stated this survey was done in 2003. And, since that they have put numerous left turn signals at these locations.

Chairperson Blackwell asked is there an early warning system to let officers know to dispatch and officer to a location when the traffic light is not working. How does that work? How could it work better?

Lt. Tillman stated there are procedures for each precinct. When that precinct receives a call for a signal light that is not functioning properly....

Chairperson Blackwell asked does it from a civilian or is there some electronic way to show that. In other words, if a PLD get a signal that that light is out and to call the appropriate precinct.

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings stated a notification is made. Usually, with the police department, we'll dispatch a car out there and one of the first things that we do is get portable stop signs. Because technically, when there is and most people know these major intersections like Seven Mile and Livernois. If the light isn't working than you must automatically come to a four way stop. So you want to put portable signs up. We have to physically call PLD. There is no automated way, that I am aware of, unless you know something where if an intersection light goes out or a red light goes off over at PLD., then no, were not that sophisticated yet.

Lt. Tillman stated the requests only comes from patrol officers on the streets or citizens, who call the precincts.

Chairperson Blackwell stated also police department jobs are responding to get this information, but it just seems that there has to be some technology that would allow someone to get a signal that this light is not working. And, then help us to get the signal to the precinct, or appropriate dispatch sooner. Because sometimes it can be fifteen or twenty minutes before I actually get a call or longer, which is really considered a potential high risk situation for that period of time. He asked who is over PLD?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated Victor McCotter.

Chairperson Blackwell asked in those particular three traffic incidents causes is alcohol in all of the those or none of those? In other words, what portion of being drunk, inebriated, or impaired affect those?

Lt. Tillman stated I don't have those particular stats for that question. However, speeding is one of the primary causes and it is surely not related to drinking, it's young adults showing off. The accident reports that I have taken myself is just joy riders.

Chairperson Blackwell stated speeding as we know is dangerous, but we know that speeding while intoxicated is almost lethal.

Lt. Tillman stated it is.

Chairperson Blackwell stated I was just wondering if we have any statistics on what incidents...because I know that there are various programs that check names and other things that are done on a periodic basis. I just was wondering have we done any of that?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated the Fatal Squad is now assigned under the Homicide Section. So, maybe what we can do is have a presentation because if it results in a fatality then it goes under the ostress of the Fatal Squad, not necessarily Traffic Enforcement.

Chairperson Blackwell asked what is the average cost of a speeding ticket?

Lt. Tillman stated it is \$116.00, if it is within 5 to 10 miles and then it goes up to \$121.00, \$136.00 and so forth.

Chairperson Blackwell stated so basically, that is about 1 million dollars worth of tickets.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated that's if they pay.

Chairperson Blackwell asked if they don't pay, are they supposed to be arrested?

Lt. Tillman stated well...

Chairperson Blackwell stated you can have a speeding ticket and issued a warrant.

Lt. Tillman stated that is called Failed to Appear (FTA). They would have a warrant issued within 21 to 60 days.

Comm. Holley asked in terms of no proof of insurance or no valid driver's license, what is your posture and what culture has been developed within the Detroit Police Department and Traffic Enforcement?

Lt. Tillman stated to be fair. I would like to speak to you privately on that because we enforce the law deeply across the board. There are occasions where discretion is used when we find certain information that is given to us.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated one of the objectives of traffic enforcement is actually education. And, officers have a tremendous amount of discretion as to whether or not they will in fact issue a ticket. There's a difference between issuing a ticket and there being an outstanding warrant because if there is an outstanding warrant, even if it is a traffic warrant, they are required to meet the

arrest, but a lot of times, it is really an education piece that we deal with. But, like the lieutenant said if you are in violation...if you don't have a driver's license you shouldn't be driving a car.

Chairperson Blackwell asked do we have any budgetary numbers on what traffic generates relative to revenue?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated yes, we can track revenue that is generated. Unfortunately, even though they have issued an excess of 8,000 speeding tickets, we might not get the revenue from that. We do track it. It is tracked up in Management Services Bureau. MSB can tell you the amount of revenue that we have received to date based upon violations that were not only issued by Traffic Enforcement, but city-wide by all police officers. And, I do know a lot of times, it's a matter of taking a look at and isolating just Traffic Enforcement to allow them to work on overtime because a lot of times that does help with traffic blitzes. But, it also curves prime because it has increased visibility. The generation of revenue is actually a fine product of Traffic Enforcement. Their two goals are education and enforcement of the traffic laws.

Chairperson Blackwell stated our goal as the Board of Police Commissioners is to have oversight over the budgetary process. We know that our job is trying to maximize revenue and creating safety. I would like to look at that. We have to look for ways, while were doing our job to try to generate revenue, if it's possible. I am not suggesting just to set up ways of generating money, but socialism is kind of a thing of the past. We have to be a little more money conscious. And, I am not talking about trapping an ordinary citizen, I am talking about people, who may not even live in this community, have disrespect for the laws and they get away with stuff and are never caught and therefore we never get the benefit of generating revenue.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated the lieutenant will periodically send me suggestions and he does it on a regular basis. But, one of things that we will take a look at is....because I think we ran them on overtime before, part of it was when school opened back up to make sure that people driving around the schools, that the children are safe and looking at the liability of letting them work overtime because we do get a benefit with the increase of visibility and reduction f of crime. So, we will take a look at that.

Chairperson Blackwell stated keep up the good work.

Lt. Tillman stated thank you, sir.

Chief Bully-Cummings asked have you ever seen them doing an escort.

Chairperson Blackwell stated I am going to tell you what people tell me from all over the country, Detroit Police Tactical Service and Traffic Enforcement is the best in the country.

Comm. Holley asked is the report entitled, "Detroit Police Department" from the Chief?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated yes.

Comm. Holley asked in regards to this confiscated piece, has the police department collected \$2 million dollars?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated that should be for the enforcement period of February 23rd through March 1st only.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez asked where is it going?

Chairperson Blackwell stated it depends on if they (DPD) do it by themselves or with another agency, then it is split. Also, a lot of it goes to the evidence room.

Comm. Holley asked can this money be invested back into the community?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated that was money that was not required to return, it is in fact narcotic proceeds. There is prorated sharing.

Comm. Holley asked what kind of sharing?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated pro, if you are working with other agencies. But, we have forfeiture and this would go into our forfeiture account, the state forfeiture account and the federal forfeiture account.

Comm. Holley asked could the Board work with you, to make sure that these monies would go to community groups to help fight crime?

Chairperson Blackwell stated no, that is City Council.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated actually with the forfeiture dollars, the law is very clear on what it could be used for and it has to be used to be invested back into Narcotic Enforcement, so that we can use it to purchase equipment for our officers and things that they need to continue enforcing through drug training.

Comm. Holley asked is that the way it has been done since you have been a police officer?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated no, that's what the law says.

Comm. Holley asked is that a federal law?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated one is a federal law and one is a state law.

Chairperson Blackwell stated it reduces the amount of money that would be spent out of the general fund for those items, any way. So, in a way you could say that we brought in \$3 million this year, which were going to appropriate, so we might want to reappropriate that money that you are talking about and do something else with it.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated actually the forfeiture proceeds pays for the facility, the vehicles and everything else that the narcotic officer uses.

Comm. Holley stated I know that we are in a budget crunch, but if I could just put it in your spirit from a standpoint that in some future when we get better, and I think we will get better that if something like this . I think we ought to do what we can to try to do what we used to do when Coleman Young was Mayor and when he formed this Commission. There needs to be an effort made to try to work with grass root communities and to work with the police department, so that there is like a partnership with the community and we will get a little grant here or there. And, somehow it engages the community as being with us, rather than sometimes were at each other. He asked do you know what I am trying to say?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated yes. Actually, we are working to try and do something that would fold in a drug prevention with City Council because they have taken note of our drug and forfeiture accounts.

Chairperson Blackwell asked do you remember during the beginning of the Kilpatrick administration, we had about \$5 or \$6 million dollars that was sitting in the evidence room. It was just sitting in the evidence room and not invested in a bank account and drawing interest. That got counted and obviously got put in the proper resources and returned back. The issue is being able to dispose of this in an appropriate way immediately, rather than just holding it and not doing anything with, which runs a risk of all kinds of problems. So, it's a good point because the issue is that part of the recovery is prorated and it helps equipment and defers costs of the general funds or we have to defer purchase of certain equipment. I think it's a good program. He asked Comm. Holley if he would like to talk about your meeting today.

Comm. Holley stated no, we will hold off on that today.

Chairperson Blackwell asked Atty. Hooks if should would like to talk about the meeting briefly.

Atty. Hooks stated Comm. Holley and I did meet with the Prosecutor's Office today. The main concern at that time was the delay or the perceived delay between issuing a request for a warrant and the actual issuance of the warrant and that goes back to the suspension without pay recommendations that we receive and the officers being suspended for periods of time without a warrant being issued. It was a productive meeting and now we understand a lot better about how that process works. We have invited the Prosecutor's Office to give a presentation to the Board on April 14, 2005. It will be held at the community meeting in the Fifth Precinct area.

Comm. Holley stated it was really good to hear that the Chief and the Prosecutor's Office have a good relationship in terms of communication.

Chairperson Blackwell stated this question is for Lt. Tillman from Traffic Enforcement. We received a letter from an individual that he had a dramatic experience relative to the treatment that he received from officers. He stated that they would have Ron Scott to contact this individual as part of the outreach in your committee that you are trying to do in terms of citizens that may have these incidents that don't get contacted quickly, but need some kind of intervention. I would like to refer this to you (Ron Scott). He asked Exec. Dir. Goss if he could give Ron Scott a copy of the letter?

Exec. Dir. Goss stated I would have to get permission from the person because he didn't release it to give to anyone other than the Commission, so that they could investigate it.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated it might have not been a Traffic Enforcement officer, it may have been an officer from the precinct.

Chairperson Blackwell stated when he gives it to us, we make it part of our record.

Exec. Dir. Goss stated that doesn't go on the record that is just for your knowledge.

Chairperson Blackwell asked why would he want us to know this without doing anything about it?

Exec. Dir. Goss stated we send it to OCI to investigate it. But, we still don't release citizens information to other citizens without their permission because of privacy issues.

Chairperson Blackwell asked are you saying that you want to refer this to OCI?

Exec. Dir. Goss stated right, but we can't give it to another citizen.

Chairperson Blackwell stated Ron Scott is not a citizen, we appointed him as an official function of what we are doing. I disagree with that. We'll talk about that later.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez stated we could have Exec. Dir. Goss contact the citizen.

Chairperson Blackwell stated or we could do it because it is not addressed to the Commissioners. I am going to tell you what I sense. You've had a number of police officers shot. You have this tension going on where people are afraid and police officers are afraid. The question is what are we doing about it, trying to mitigate to the extent, we just can't go business as usual. The issue is here somebody clearly could have had a bad day and the individual that was stopped might have been in the wrong place at the wrong time. The issue is that needs to be dealt with. I think it needs to be dealt with, not on an individual basis, but.... I thought that was the reason for putting this group together.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez stated this is what I keep saying over and over as the Chairperson of the Complaint Committee. That is why I have forward you a listing of the sustained cases, so that it could be tracked and what information are we getting that something is being done. I know that letters are being forward to the citizens, that yes we received you information. But, there is nothing coming to us as to what discipline or training that the officers will receive.

Chairperson Blackwell stated the issue is, is that we don't won't to get the community so afraid of one another. That's what I thought the whole purpose of creating a Citizen Liaison Committee relative to dealing with people who may not be able to.... In the mean time we need to find out if there is a process where there is some advocacy or intervention that is saying that we want to work with you on that. It doesn't change the official investigation.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez stated exactly. Also, Denise Hooks is working on a mediation project.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 10, 2005 @ 6:30 p.m.
Brush Park Manor
2900 Brush Street
Detroit, MI 48201

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Ron Scott stated he would like to know how the Citizen Liaison Committee would be facilitated and the protocols. He also compared and analyzed how other cities are allowed to park, the number of violations, and the number parking tickets.

Lt. Dennis Richardson stated he is from the Arson Section of the Detroit Fire Department. I recently applied for entering into the police academy in October. I completed the process, had all of my background investigation, medical examination, condition to offer employment, and psychological examination. It got to the point, where I was just waiting for a date and then my date was delayed and then I was eventually denied. And, I have been in constant contact with Lt. Lawrence of the Recruiting Section and tried to get an explanation and initially I wasn't rendered one. Eventually, I was rendered one, but in my opinion it was vague and it wasn't true. I had a meeting with him the day before yesterday and asked him to clarify that and he refused to divulge any detailed information. He asked if an investigation could be launched and can the decision he made be appealed? I would also like a detailed explanation.

Chairperson Blackwell asked Atty. Hooks to explain the process.

Atty. Hooks stated from what I understand, it sounds like initially he's asking for reconsideration or maybe some information from Personnel with respect to his status or just an explanation. But, aside from that there is an appeal process. You can submit a letter to the Board of Police Commissioners requesting to appeal your disqualification from the process, indicate that you are filing an appeal and that you are giving us authorization to review your file.

Chairperson Blackwell asked which comes first, the reconsideration or the appeal?

Atty. Hooks stated I would suggest that the reconsideration comes first and give the department, or specifically the Personnel Section an opportunity to look at what happened with respect to him. And, if they uphold their initial decision not to let him go forth then he can file the appeal.

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated this may be something that we have to look because Mr. Richardson is a firefighter. His situation is a little different. The individuals in the fire department, who wish to be promoted to the Fire Arson Unit, have to go through the police academy. He is not an applicant for employment with the police department. And, I am not sure that the Board

would have that same authority with respect to his appeal process. I am familiar with his case. In fact, I have spoken with Fire Commissioner Scott regarding three other individuals that were attempting to enter the Academy. Additionally, MCOLES had issued some sort of new directives as it related to the Fire Arson individuals and the Chief and the Commission sort of have an arrangement or agreement with respect to those individuals. So, I am not exactly sure that Mr.....

Chairperson Blackwell asked the application is not to the police department, but it is for a promotion within the Fire Department that has something to do with police department?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated in order to be a member of fire arson, you have to be a firefighter to start off with. So, he is in fact employed by the Detroit Fire Department. But, in order to work Fire Arson, you have to be a certified police officer. So, I am not sure what the fire department's requirements are in order for its members to submit an application to go through the police academy to become a certified officer. They will not be employed by the Detroit Police Department per say, even though organizationally Fire Arson is under the Detroit Police Department because the issue of certification and the stand that MCOLES took. So, technically a member of the fire department that desires to become a member of Fire Arson has to meet all of the minimal requirements of a person interested in becoming a Detroit police officer.

Chairperson Blackwell asked was there an offer?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated no.

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated no.

Lt. Richardson stated yes there was.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated there was no offer.

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated I have never signed an offer of employment for Mr. Richardson.

Chairperson Blackwell he asked before you sign an offer of employment, do you go through steps prior to that?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated yes, but you do not take a psychological exam, nor a physical exam with the police department until post offer.

Lt. Richardson stated I did.

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated I would have to look into that allegation because Lt. Lawrence did send a letter and I know that Commissioner Scott received a copy of the letter with respect to Mr. Richardson because as I indicated there were three (3) individuals that Commissioner Scott was attempting to get admitted into the Academy.

Atty. Hooks stated maybe this is something that we need to talk about now outside of this meeting, so that we could sort the information out because I get a slightly different view of his initial request. This doesn't need to be discussed on the record.

Chairperson Blackwell asked anybody would have to come through that process would in a way be treated as an officer trying to be accepted in the Detroit Police Department.

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated what occurs is the fire department submit to us individuals who they want to promote to the Fire Arson Section, so those people have to be first. Whatever the fire department's rules are, they have to qualify or whatever. The Commissioner gives us their names and we tell them that they could come over and they have to apply as if they are an applicant to the police department and then they go through our background investigation and everything....

Chairperson Blackwell asked do they also go through the Academy?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated exactly, so they have to meet the requirements because MCOLES will not let them sit in the Academy if they don't.

Chairperson Blackwell asked once they are recommended by the fire department, you treat them as an applicant to the police department?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated right. The fire department can't just say we want these people be Arson, they say that, but they have to meet our requirements because the Chief is the only person who....

Chairperson Blackwell asked once they get into the process in regards to being a police officer and they were denied like any other applicant and they wanted to appeal that that would not come here?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated I am not clear on that. He is never going to get a police badge. The only thing that they are really getting is the certification, so that the Chief could authorize them to carry a weapon.

Chairperson Blackwell asked for example, if an individual came here and decided that they were going to the Academy and they really liked it and

they passed everything, they couldn't be a police officer? Would they have to go and do some extra stuff?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated first of all we would have to have a budget enough to even hire them. See, we are not hiring them.

Chairperson Blackwell stated I know that you are not hiring them.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated to be honest with you, I don't know of anyone that has ever been a firefighter and went for the certification...

Chairperson Blackwell stated in Detroit.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated right.

Chairperson Blackwell stated we need to have a discussion about this. Maybe in a couple of weeks we can at least come to some kind of resolution of where we want to go and to see where his rights and remedies are relative to this issue.

Sandra Hines she asked what is the criteria for the Special Response to use a tank during a situation when someone is barricaded.

Chief Bully-Cummings asked Sgt. Robert Mitchell to address the matter. It looks like a tank, but it is actually a personnel carrier and it serves it specific function.

Sgt. Robert Mitchell stated I am a former member of the Special Response Team. It is used so that the hostage negotiators and the officers could get close to the house and begin negotiations with the subject inside and try to negotiate him out of the home without there being any injury to the negotiators. It is simply a big bullet proof vest. Psychologically, when the lights and noise is going, they tend to want to come out.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez asked has there been any communication out to the citizens to let them know what this is?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated we normally have community events where we bring out all of their equipment when the children and adults have an opportunity to see it.

Ms. Hines stated when the committee was asked to form; you addressed it to me (Sandra Hines), not to Ron Scott. As the Coalition, we did decide that we welcome the opportunity to serve in the capacity that we sent to Denise for review and hopefully the Commission has had an opportunity to take a look at that. And, we will be waiting to get started with that and hopefully we

could have some kind of real community and police relationship building as a result of this subcommittee.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated there was a citizen that was here last week. I believe her name was Ms. Burrows and she indicated that her sister had taken her two children. For the record, her sister has legal custody and there was a legal adoption. So, we did look into and we have the paperwork.

Chairperson Blackwell asked does the parent have visitation rights?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated no, not for legal adoption. A legal adoption dissolves any parental rights that the parent had.

Ms. Walters voiced a concern in that potholes are causing people to have accidents.

Wymon Mitchell stated he was harassed and attacked by a Caucasian police officer, while he was taking pictures at an event that was held at the Hotel St. Regis.

Comm. Holley stated this conference took place at St. Regis almost a year ago. He asked why are you just now bringing it to our attention? Did you make a report?

Mr. Mitchell stated he has not been able to get the officer's name.

I.C.I. Sheard stated I received a call the day before yesterday regarding Mr. Mitchell's concern. The investigator that is handling this case was off that day and I insured Mr. Mitchell that if he contacts me tomorrow that I would provide him with the name of the officer.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/kdw